

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding Action mailed May 5, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 3, 5, 6 and 21 remain pending. In particular, Applicant has added new claim 21, has amended claims 5 and 6, and has canceled claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-20 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant has canceled claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-20 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges that claim 3 is allowed.

In the Drawings

Applicant respectfully agrees with the Examiner's contention that the drawings filed on March 17, 2004 are not to be entered of record. Additionally, Applicant respectfully notes that the drawings were approved in the Office Action of December 15, 2003.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103

The Office Action indicates that claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by *Choi et al.* (U.S. 5,859,454). The Office Action also indicates that claims 2, 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Choi et al.* in view of *Murai et*

al. (U.S. 5,243,559). As set forth above, Applicant has cancelled claims 1 and 2 and respectfully asserts that the rejection as to these claims has been rendered moot. With respect to claims 5 and 6, Applicant has amended these claims such that each now depends from claim 3, the allowability of which was indicated in the Office Action. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 5 and 6 are in condition for allowance.

Newly Added Claims

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, Applicant has added new claim 21. Applicant respectfully asserts that this claim is in condition for allowance for at least the reason that this claim is a dependent claim that incorporates the features/limitations of claim 3, the allowability of which was indicated in the Office Action.

Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,



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